



United States Representative

ROSA DeLAURO

Chair, House Appropriations Committee & Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

HEALTHY FAMILIES ACT

No one should face the impossible choice of caring for their health or keeping their paycheck or job. But millions of hard-working people must make this decision every time they get sick or a family member needs care.

Prior to the pandemic, the numbers were startling. Over 34 million private sector workers could not earn a single paid sick day to recover from the flu, care for a sick child or seek preventive care. In addition, while 92 percent of the highest-wage workers had paid sick days, less than one in three (31 percent) of our nation's lowest-wage workers had access to a single paid sick day. And only 52 percent of service workers — who frequently interact with the public — had access to paid sick days.

That is why we fought to create the national emergency paid leave program with the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, because we knew paid leave would be critical to addressing both the health and economic crises COVID has created. It passed in March with bipartisan support and, while it provided just a start at fixing this problem, the results were immediate.

It gave 22 million workers nationwide the ability to stay home when they were sick. That is a public health necessity when combatting an infectious disease like the coronavirus, and it made a huge difference.

A study in Health Affairs found that the introduction of the paid leave provisions helped reduce COVID infections by about 15 thousand cases per day. As we face a new highly infectious strain of COVID and rising case numbers, we must recognize that this is not the moment to abandon a plan that keeps working people safe.

THAT IS WHY WE ARE REINTRODUCING THE HEALTHY FAMILIES ACT, WHICH WOULD:

- Allow workers in businesses with 15 or more employees to earn up to seven job-protected paid sick days each year to be used to recover from their own illness, access preventive care, provide care for a sick family member, or attend meetings related to the health or disability of a child. Allows workers in businesses with less than 15 employees to earn up to seven job-protected unpaid sick days each year.
- Allow workers who are victims of domestic violence, stalking, or sexual assault to use their sick days to recover or seek assistance related to an incident.

U.S. HOUSE SPONSOR

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